Claims:

1. A method within a telecommunications switch for tracking employee start and stop times presently, comprising:

playing a message to request an employee ID;

playing a message to request the employee to select between start and stop;

playing a message to request an account code;

generating a message comprising, signals that indicate the employee ID, whether the employee is starting or stopping a task, and an account code; and

transmitting the generated message to a time keeping and expense entry tracking server.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising the step of activating the IVR to request the employee ID only after the switch determines that a specified number was dialed to initiate a time entry event.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the IVR generates messages to request one of the ID, the selection between start and stop, and the account code are transmitted to a user phone wherein the user phone comprises of either a land line phone or a wireless terminal.

4. A method within a time keeping and expense entry server for tracking employee work time, comprising:

generating a text message to a user terminal to request a user ID, a selection between start and stop, and an account code;

receiving a response from the user terminal; and

storing the response in a specified manner to support the subsequent generation of reports that detail employee work activities and total account activities.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is transmitted to a wireless terminal in the form of a short message service message.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is transmitted to the user terminal in the form of a page.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is transmitted to the user terminal in the form of an email message.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is generated as a part of a GUI screen display in a form that prompts the user to enter his or her responses in the corresponding fields.

9. A method in a time keeping and expense entry server for monitoring employee work time, comprising:

receiving a message from a user terminal;

extracting a user ID, an account code, and a selected indication of a start or stop status;

storing a time entry event with respect to an account code according to user ID;

determining whether additional information is required; and

generating GUI screen display signals to request the additional information accordingly.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the type of GUI screen display that is generated as a result of the GUI screen display signals depends on terminal type.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the TKET server generates the GUI screen display signals to create specified GUI screen displays according to terminal type.

12. A server for time keeping and expense entry server for tracking employee work time, comprising:

a processor;

a memory for storing computer instructions, which computer instructions define the operation logic of the server;

at least one network port to enable the server to communicate with external systems over the internet; and

an internal bus coupled to the at one network port, to the processor and to the memory wherein the processor receives and executes the computer instructions, wherein the computer instructions define operational logic to prompt the server to:

receive and interpret responses from the user terminal;

store the responses in a specified manner; and

subsequently generate reports that detail employee work activities and total account activities.

13. The server of claim 12 further including computer instructions that define logic for receiving a message from a user terminal and for extracting a user ID, an account code, and a selected indication of a start or stop status.

14. The server of claim 13 further including computer instructions that define logic for storing a time entry event with respect to an account code according to user ID; ~~determining~~ whether additional information is ~~required~~.

15. The server of claim 13 further including computer instructions that define logic for generating GUI screen display signals to request the additional information accordingly.